

COMMENT OF  
THE DAY

Debunking Stalin

THE curious part of the Khrushchev denunciation of Stalin is that it was delayed for two years, then made so suddenly and carried out so thoroughly. According to cable reports, speculation is that the new regime itself—using, of course, the dictatorial structure and the aura of fear inherited from its own despised predecessor before debunking the "cult of personality."

If this is so, the action appears impetuous. The satellites have apparently been taken by surprise at the ferocity of Mr. Khrushchev's attack. Stalin's native Georgia has reacted with horror and anger. The speech is said to be the subject of street corner gossip throughout the country. It is fair to assume that it is as common a talking point in every part of the Communist bloc.

ONE wonders to whom the people will listen? Their own leaders, who are being gently and cautiously critical, or Mr. Khrushchev who has utterly pulverised the idol of Stalin in one fell swoop. Preposterous, is one certain result, but it will be surprising if it stops there. One wonders what the reaction will be in East Germany and China—particularly the latter—where individual dictatorships have been both prominent and potent in recent years.

To the satellites the speech may suggest a weakening of Moscow domination though, in fact, there is no reason to believe that collective dictatorship need be any sweeter or more palatable than individual despotism. Another thought that will occur in Russia is that for almost 20 years (dating from the assassination of Kirov in 1934) their present rulers allowed them to be governed by a man who was not just a fearless tyrant but in the last years of his life deranged and at times very near to being a dangerous madman. At least he is presented that way now.

And in doing so Mr. Khrushchev immediately makes himself an enemy for life of the Georgian people who in wounded pride are bound to recall in future with some pain that while all the people of the Soviet Union are equal some are less equal than others, and it appears that the "more equal" at the moment are the Ukrainians whom Stalin unkindly alighted when he called out to an embarrassed Mr. Khrushchev at a party: "Hey, Khrushchev, dance us the gopak!" One does not have to speak Russian to realise that the request has a vulgar and most unflattering undertone.

POSSIBLY vindictive Army marshals, now a powerful influence in the regime, demanded the censure of Stalin's generalship and his liquidation of the high command in 1939 to atone for their near defeat by the German Army in 1941. But there is more to Mr. Khrushchev's speech than that. And the way it was "leaked" to the Western world would suggest that it was no accident that such detailed reports have filled the columns of Western newspapers.

Neutral sympathies may well be kindled by the disclosure and this may succeed in disrupting Western designs to some extent in areas where Russia intends furthering its interests. The West, however, can hardly be enamoured by Mr. Khrushchev's vituperative and cowardly attack on a man who has been dead for two years, and whose patronage he was privileged to survive. There is certainly nothing brave or inspiring in his action; indeed, there is much in the former minion's assassination of his master that suggests hypocrisy and sheer humbug.

Hour-Long  
Riot  
Follows  
Singapore  
Meeting

Singapore, Mar. 18.

Forty persons, including six policemen, were hurt tonight in an hour-long riot on the disused Kallang airport here as a mass "Merdeka" rally was breaking up.

The British parliamentary delegation visiting Singapore to assess its claims for independence had left the former airport terminal about two hours before a crowd, largely composed of students, shattered nearly every window in the building with a barrage of bottles and stones.

Police battled the rioters, which political leaders described as a "gangster element," for nearly an hour before police officers, politicians and pressmen trapped in the building could escape.

Police blamed an "organized Communist attempt to cause trouble" for the riots.

A police spokesman said tonight that 20 policemen injured by flying stones were treated in hospital and several others received minor treatment.

Police said five of the injured Chinese youths had been detained.

Fifteen civilians, including two women, were treated. One young Chinese was admitted to hospital with head wounds.

Police said five of the injured Chinese youths had been detained. Police said nearly all the vast crowd which attended the "Merdeka" rally had dispersed in an orderly and friendly fashion when speakers leading banned songs and dancers began to whip up young Chinese.

Leaders then urged them on in stone-throwing attacks. Police said nearly all the vast crowd which attended the "Merdeka" rally had dispersed in an orderly and friendly fashion when speakers leading banned songs and dancers began to whip up young Chinese.

A Singapore government spokesman blamed the disturbances on a Chinese "cultured association" which held an anti-police meeting shortly before the rally. Many of the 5,000 young Chinese at this meeting marched across to the rally in organized columns and were later involved in trouble, the spokesman said.

Reds Blamed

Later in a radio broadcast, the Chief Minister, Mr. David Marshall, blamed the Communists for the disturbances and said an inquiry would be held.

He said: "We know there are enemies in our midst."

He added: "It is most distressing and unfortunate the wonderful friendly spirit of the meeting should have been marred by vicious, organized, disruptive elements."—Reuter.

Fall Into Trap

Paris, Mar. 18. Police laid a trap for half a dozen Algerian nationalists "tax collectors" early today and submachinegunned one of them to death when he pulled a knife. Two were arrested and three others escaped.—United Press.

SAAR'S FUTURE

Saarbrücken, Mar. 18. Herr Erich Schwerdtner, Saarland State Commissioner for Reconstruction, said here tonight that the Saar could be "expected to return to Germany by the end of this year."—Reuter.

Fails To Survive Complicated Heart Operation

Denver, Mar. 18. The 13-year-old son of the Canadian Minister of Public Works died last night in a Denver Hospital despite a complicated heart operation to save his life.

Young Richard Winters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Winters of Ottawa, Canada, had undergone a six-hour deep freeze heart operation on Thursday at General Rose Hospital in Denver.

The comparatively rare operation was to close a hole between Richard's two lower heart chambers—a condition the boy suffered from since birth. The boy was flown to Denver from Canada and sent to hospital last Monday. His parents were on hand for the operation, which was performed by a team of Colorado University Medical Centre surgeons.

US DISARMAMENT PLAN

Brand New "Specific Proposals"



MR GRÖMYKO

DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE

Beirut, Mar. 18.

A total of 132 persons were killed and some 30,000 others were homeless as a result of an earthquake which rocked south Lebanon this week, it was announced today.

Seventy-five persons were sent to hospital with injuries suffered in the quake, which occurred last Friday.

Casualty figures were expected to mount further as reports came in from out-of-the-way places near the Syrian border which lack telephone and road communications.

The quake levelled 100 of 500 houses in the hard-hit village of Chehim and cracked the walls of others, making them useless. It split walls in several public buildings, including government headquarters and the presidential offices.

An American emergency shipment of food and medical supplies was expected to arrive by air tonight and another tomorrow.

Egypt and Jordan will dispatch first-aid missions and Iraq will send blood plasma for the injured. —France Press.

BEN-GURION'S STERN WARNING OF EGYPT'S WAR DESIGNS

Jerusalem, Mar. 18.

Mr David Ben-Gurion, Israeli Prime Minister, declared tonight that Egypt was certain to attack Israel within the next few months unless Israel received defensive arms in the "most immediate future."

Mr Ben-Gurion—who is also Defence Minister, was speaking at a convention of the Israeli Federation of Labour.

Mr Ben-Gurion said the Egyptian-Czechoslovak arms deal had hardened Egypt's attitude and brought war nearer.

"The supply by the Soviets of aggressive arms in large quantities and superior quality to the Egyptians... is the gravest event," he said.

Israel did not have one tank which equaled in quality those of the Arab armies. He added: "We have not one tank which equals in power the British Centurion supplied to Egypt or the Soviet Stalin (tank). What is worse, we have not one fighter plane equal in speed to the Russian MIG or one bomber equal in quality to the Soviet Tu-16."

Mr Ben-Gurion said Egypt had received 200 MIG jet fighters, 60 Ilyushins, dozens of Stalin tanks and a number of submarines.

Mr Ben-Gurion said the Soviets were undoubtedly aware these arms were not intended to improve the conditions of labour of Egyptian workers or raise the standards of living of the peasant masses.

"They were aware the Egyptian dictators were preparing for a war of extermination against Israel."

Both the attitude of Britain and the United States is no less surprising. These countries still refuse Israel the defensive arms she requires... for only such arms are capable of preventing Egyptian aggression."

U.S. TO URGE DO-IT-NOW PROPOSITION

London, Mar. 18.

The United States will launch a do-it-now disarmament plan separate from the new Anglo-French proposal for long-range arms cuts at the United Nations disarmament conference opening tomorrow, authoritative sources said today.

They said the programme will include specific American proposals aimed at making an immediate start on President Eisenhower's open-sky inspection plan and an alarm system against aggression.

These measures, the sources said, can be taken under present world conditions right now—pending final agreement on overall disarmament.

Harold E. Stassen, Mr. Eisenhower's special envoy at the Big Four, plus Canada, talks here, confirmed that he brought brand-new "specific proposals." He declined to reveal them before the conference opens.

But officials made it plain that important differences distinguished it from the new proposals prepared by France and Britain.

The Anglo-French plan looks further ahead to a long-term disarmament agreement which would set out final targets for trimming overall forces and enforcing these targets.

The US is concentrating on how to get things going, one source said. "We are willing to move faster and further than others at this stage."

STILL A SECRET

He said in this respect parts of the new US plan are closer to Russian proposals outlined in Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin's correspondence with President Eisenhower. Specific details of both the American and Anglo-French plans remained secret.

Russia unexpectedly sent Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to represent it at the London conference. He arrived from Moscow today. Ambassador to London Jacob Malik had been expected to speak for Russia.

Assignment of a top-level Minister raised hopes that Russia might now be ready to allow agreement on disarmament after 10 years of fruitless bargaining.

The talks starting tomorrow may turn out to be one of the most important sessions held internationally since World War II. Mr Stassen told newsmen, "Or it may be another talk-fest," he said. "There is no way of being certain right now."

But Western officials agreed that prospects for agreement brightened considerably after the 20th Communist Party Congress in Moscow last month and the subsequent Eisenhower-Bulganin letters.

Communist Party leader Nikita S. Khrushchev scrapped early party doctrine and said Communist China can become a "world system" by peaceful means.

Mr Stassen said the American proposals for getting an immediate start on disarmament were readied by top experts during a year of study following President Eisenhower's order to re-evaluate policy on March 19, 1955.



MR STASSEN

"Decisions have been made by President Eisenhower," Mr Stassen said. "We will make a number of specific proposals."

"But we will not be in a rigid position," he said. "In any case," he said, "American policy will continue to be based on maintaining 'an atomic shield against aggression (which) is an important safeguard for peace.'"

SECURITY VALUE

"So a part of the US policy is a want to be very certain of the security value of any other arrangement before we agree to weaken this atomic shield."

Mr Stassen said he will present President Eisenhower's latest letter to Marshal Bulganin on disarmament at the opening session tomorrow.

In the morning he said, Britain, France, Canada and the US will hold a final strategy meeting.

"We have not yet reconciled the positions of the Western Powers," one diplomat said. "But we have a certain large measure of agreement."

He said the disagreement should not be over-emphasised, however, since the foundation of any disarmament agreement must be accord between Russia and the United States, the two most heavily armed powers. —United Press.

Planes Break Danube Ice Jam

Vienna, Mar. 18.

Joint efforts by Yugoslav and Hungarian military planes to break a 50-mile-long ice jam on the Danube were finally successful today, Radio Budapest said.

The ice jam, covering the Danube in Southern Hungary, caused the worst floods there since 1838.

Nearly 100,000 persons were evacuated and hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile lands were flooded by the waters of the stream.

Hungarian aeroplanes vainly attempted earlier to break the ice jam by dropping heavy bombs.

Twelve Yugoslav military planes and a number of Hungarian planes today finally succeeded in getting the ice jam moving after they bombarded a huge ice barrier at the Hungarian-Yugoslav border, Radio Budapest said.

A few hours after the bombing the water level dropped up to three feet in the Danube and waters receded from many flooded areas, the broadcast said.

Meanwhile, Radio Budapest gave a preliminary report on casualties and damage done by the flood. It said that only four persons were reported drowned but damage to property was "considerable."

Thousands of cattle and other animals drowned and crops in various districts were ruined. Moreover, thousands of houses were completely destroyed, it said.—United Press.

NEGRO MINISTERS ON TRIAL TODAY

200 Offer To Fill Vacant Pulpits

New York, Mar. 18.

The "Fellowship of Reconciliation" reported today that more than 200 white and negro clergymen had offered to go to Montgomery, Alabama, to take the pulpits of 26 negro ministers who face trial on charges of leading a boycott of the bus line.

Altogether 93 negroes in Montgomery, in the heart of the South where proposed desegregation of the buses has recently led to many incidents, go on trial tomorrow on charges of organising an "illegal boycott" by negroes seeking to end discrimination in seating on buses.

15,000 MEMBERSHIP

The Fellowship of Reconciliation describes itself as a voluntary, non-denominational Protestant organisation founded in 1915 by clergymen seeking the settlement of international and racial conflicts by peaceful means. It claims a membership of 15,000 in the United States with affiliates in other countries.

The Fellowship also called on President Eisenhower to exercise "special responsibility" in the segregation issue, and for churches in the North and South to "repent of the sinful practice of segregation."

Can't Entertain Mr B. & Mr K.

London, Mar. 18.

The Foreign Office has snubbed a bid by Russian sympathisers in Britain to play host next month to Marshal Bulganin and Mr Khrushchev, it was disclosed here tonight.

The British-Soviet Friendship Society has been refused time to entertain the Soviet Prime Minister and Communist Party Chief, who will be visiting Britain as guests of the British government.

The Society's President, Dr Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury (popularly known as the "Red Dean") had asked Sir Anthony Eden to allocate an afternoon and evening, or just an evening, in which the Russian leaders could be their guests.

But, the Society said tonight, the Foreign Office replied that the Soviet leaders' visit was a "very full one" and it was "impossible to include in it" the many offers of hospitality which had been received.—Reuter.

Meetings Ban

London, Mar. 18.

Mr Ben-Gurion said the Government would ban any public meeting or demonstration which threatened to heighten tension between French and Moslems. He said officials would halt the arms traffic which has turned Algeria into a "virtual powder-keg."

Mr Ben-Gurion said the Government would be authorised to use its right of search on a round-the-clock basis. He said the Government would "exercise effective control" over newspapers, press despatches, and telecommunication but did not plan to censor mail for the time being. (Contd. on back page, Col. 3)

SUNDAY EXPRESS Baby Book

Here it is... the book that gives complete information on the care of the baby and small child from the prenatal period through to the sixth year... detailed advice on Routines, Menus, Recipes, Training, First Aid... Complete Record Section from Birth to the twelfth Year.

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Get-Tough Measures By France In Algeria

Algiers, Mar. 18.

France's Minister-Resident in Algiers, M. Robert Lacoste, made clear today the French Government was preparing to wage a show-down battle against Algerian rebels in the framework of special powers which it received from the National Assembly last week.

Lacoste, speaking at a news conference, said France will give priority to military needs in Algeria and will continue to pour manpower and equipment into the revolt-torn area.

Lacoste said all available means of transport have been requisitioned to dispatch reinforcements here at top speed. He said additional helicopters and some 100 light planes will arrive shortly.

Lacoste said an airlift had been set up to bring troop reinforcements from French West Africa, and motorised and armoured units from West Germany.

Lacoste said these measures, taken under the special powers law, would become effective tomorrow. He said the measures called for the Air Force to set up special battalions of foot-troops for Algeria.

Commando Units

The Navy has been asked to form Commando units and the fleet will be assigned to patrol along the Algerian coast, Lacoste said. He said the army had been instructed to start calling up reserve officers and non-commissioned officers.

Lacoste said that military courts would be given jurisdiction over "if certain number of crimes." He said that deserters would be punished severely. Lacoste added that some areas would be wholly or partially closed to traffic and that special permission would be required before entering Algeria.

Lacoste said this requirement would have the mass exodus from France of Algerian workers who have been swelling the ranks of the terrorists in Algeria.

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## E. Germany Tightening Police Control

Berlin, Mar. 18. The East German Communist Party leadership showed signs today of tightening up control over the State Security Service — the secret police.

Simultaneously with the disclosure of disciplinary measures against East Berlin public prosecutors and police officials, it was stated in the party newspaper, Neues Deutschland, that the State Security Service had shown "tendencies to violate the law."

This admission was made by Herr Walter Ulbricht, the first party secretary. In the same long article in which he accused Stalin of a plot to take revenge on the party, he also mentioned the speech Mr. Nikita Khrushchev is reported to have made against the former Soviet leader.

### DAMAGING ROLE

Herr Ulbricht indicated that this statement was prompted by Mr. Khrushchev's revelation of the damage role played in the past by the secret police in the Soviet Union.

Herr Ulbricht said "comrades will not be the only ones to be punished in the Soviet Union. The State Security Police have many times violated the law which guarantees the right to a fair trial. It cannot happen in East Germany."

"A long time ago, when such tendencies were rampant, we, together with others at the collective of the Politbureau, corrected this and reported on it to the central committee."

Herr Ulbricht added, "We have again recently given instructions that the authority of the party organization is to be strictly observed, and that the party's rules about inner-party democracy, criticism and self-criticism, even in the party organization of the State Security Police, must likewise be observed."

### GROSS VIOLATION

Disciplinary measures against members of the East Berlin police and prosecuting bodies were reported by the central committee's ideological weekly, Neuer Weg, received here today.

"Comrade" Teuber, the East Berlin Attorney General, was accused of "gross violation of democratic lawfulness," while "Comrade" Bell, another prosecutor, and three police officials were to be punished for "disregarding the civil rights of a citizen."

The citizens concerned, a factory director, had been arrested some weeks ago "for no legal reason,"—Reuter.

# Khrushchev's Bombshell Is Talk Of Moscow

Moscow, Mar. 18. The deflation of Josef Stalin was the topic of conversation in the streets of Moscow today.

Muscovites talked politics as they have not done since Lenin died in 1924.

Even housewives standing in line outside stores on Gorki Street, the Broadway of Moscow, talked of the recent speeches before the Communist Party Congress denouncing "the cult of the individual."

### Common Knowledge

Party agitators worked in Georgia, Stalin's home state where he is fondly remembered, and where pro-Stalin demonstrations occurred on March 7 and 8 shortly after the opening of the third anniversary of his death.

Secret Communist Party First Secretary Nikita S. Khrushchev's reported address before a secret session of the recent Party Congress which was extremely critical of Stalin appeared to be common knowledge to Muscovites. Westerners here, however, could not confirm it.

Interest in Lenin was apparent in the quarter-mile long queue of citizens stretching across Red Square in warm spring sunshine, waiting for admission to the Lenin-Stalin museum.

Observers said it may be difficult for many persons unacquainted with the idea of Stalin as a wise and untiring planner to accept the new view of him.

### Full Speed

Muscovites showed no hesitation in discussing the man who dominated the thinking of Russia for almost 30 years.

The outbreak of discussion apparently has top-level party encouragement. The Government Information Agency is working full speed for the widest dissemination of the decisions and speeches at the week-long Party Congress last month.

Millions of copies of the congress reports have been printed but are shipped up as soon as they arrive at news kiosks.

Thousands of meetings are being held in factories, farms and schools to explain the congress action.

The Tass news agency reported that 15,000 party agitators have been working in Georgia where the party newspaper Zvezda Vostoka launched Stalin on the anniversary of his death, March 5, 1953.

### Many Friends

A few days later, the newspaper published an editorial urging local authorities to ex-

pose "provocateurs" and hostile elements "who violate socialist law and order."

Western observers said Stalin still has many friends in Georgia and probably elsewhere in the Soviet Union as well.—United Press.

### YUGOSLAV VIEWS

Belgrade, Mar. 18. The Yugoslav Communist Party newspaper Borba said in an editorial appearing in tomorrow's issue that the Soviet party was concentrating on removing the vestiges of Stalinist rule "in every field of life."

An article quoted by the official Yugoslav press agency today said the Yugoslav Communist Party was studying "Stalin's personality and his policy to study its influence on the workers of the world."

Borba said it was concerning the personality cult of the 20th century great leader of the Soviet Communist Party. It concentrated its efforts on the role of the party in exposing the anti-Marxist and anti-socialist character of the personality cult and its aim to remove the vestiges of Stalinist rule in every field of life in the Soviet Union.

### So Much Harm

"All this obviously has its aim to rid the Soviet Union of the things which have caused the Soviet Union so much harm, and parallel with this, to remove the vestiges of Stalinist rule in every field of life in the Soviet Union."

Borba said the confirmation of the policy of collective leadership at the Moscow congress "proves that the leading Soviet force is resolved henceforth to move rapidly and consistently to remove the remnants of anti-socialist practices. The present analysis of Stalin's errors in foreign policy of the pre-war and post-war period reveals the same aim."

The newspaper added: "The 20th Congress constitutes a condemnation of Stalin's policy towards Yugoslavia."

"The latest, as yet extremely incomplete data on Khrushchev's address at the closed meeting of the congress indicate that Khrushchev, with his analysis of the personality cult, and of Stalinist policy has made a further step towards the new orientation,"—Reuter.

### ITALY SWINGS INTO LINE

Rome, Mar. 18. The Italian Communist Party, the biggest in Western Europe, has swung into line with Moscow in condemnation of the personality cult and of the "errors" of the last 20 years of Stalin's rule.

As soon as he returned from the Moscow congress, party leader Palmiro Togliatti told his followers that they must take the lead, before the anti-Communist, in debating this question in an open and correct way.

The party organ Unita today partly confirmed reports of Khrushchev's attack on Stalin by contending that Western newspaper accounts of the speech "would appear to contain some inventions." It said rumours of rioting in Georgia were also inventions.—Reuter.

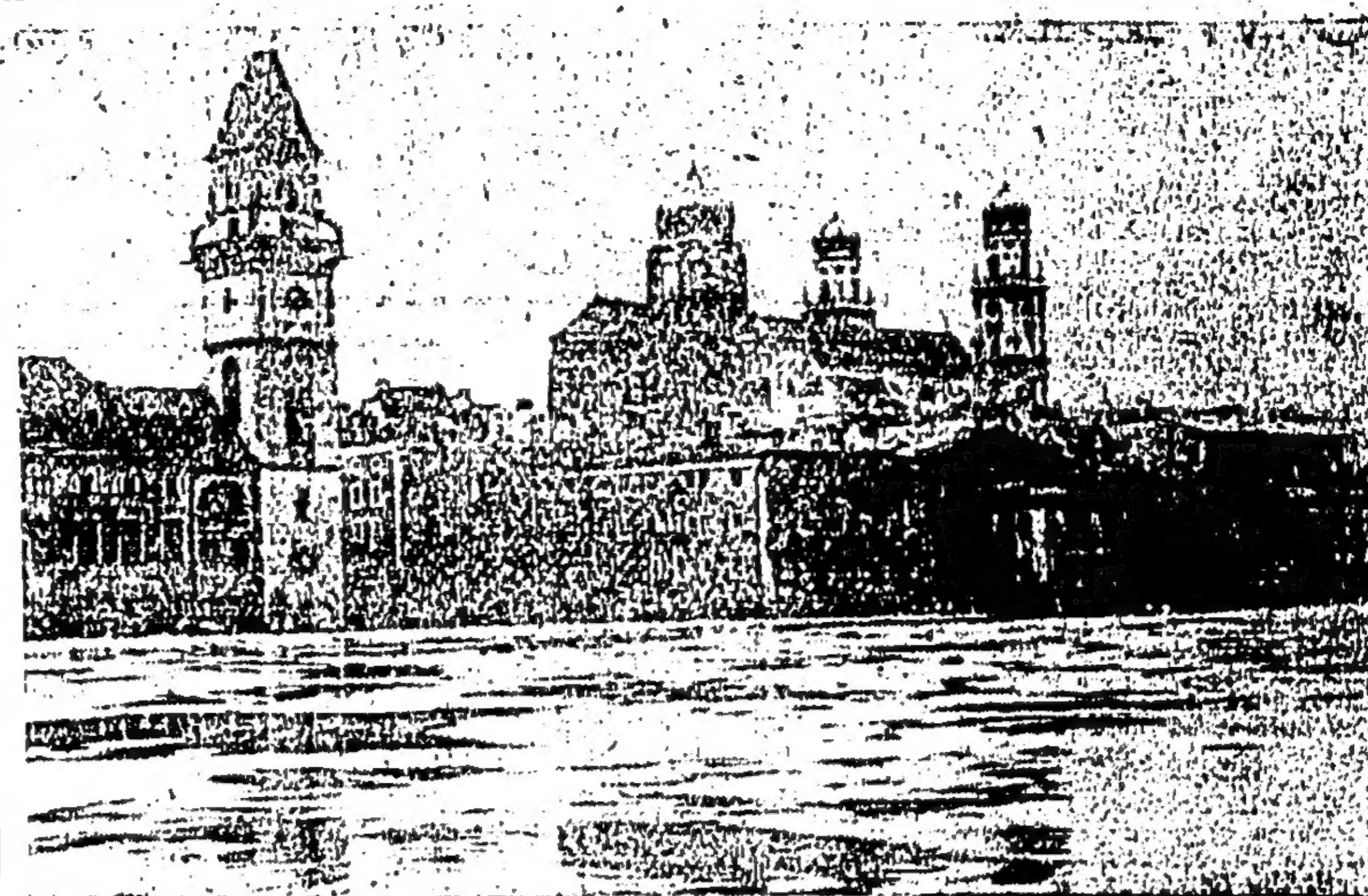
## HISTORY OF CEYLON IN VERSE

Colombo, Mar. 18. A Sinhalese poet, Mr. R. Tennakoon, has written a history of Ceylon in verse describing every important event in the island up to the time of Ceylon's entry into the United Nations last year.

A copy has been presented to the Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala.

The history is entitled "Sinhala Vamsavamsa" and contains 2,000 verses.—China Mail Special.

## Floods Hit Germany And Holland



The recent heavy snows and freeze-up which hit most of the European continent resulted in floods in many parts of Germany and Holland. At this River Danube town of Vilsbiburg, Germany, more than 2,500 persons had to be evacuated as flood waters poured through its streets. Height of the water was only one metre below that of 1954, when the area was flooded with catastrophic effect.—Express Photo.

## Legionnaires Killed

Taza, Mar. 18. A French Legion patrol lost two men killed and 10 wounded in an ambush laid by a strong rebel band between Taza and Akhmed, near the Spanish zone border, today.

One soldier was killed on the spot, a second died of his wounds. Two other casualties were badly wounded.

The rebels, estimated at about 100 strong, opened fire on the patrol from heights dominating the mountain road. The Legionnaires returned the fire and the rebels fled.—France-Press.

## EXTENSION OF GENERAL STRIKE

Helsinki, Mar. 18. Finland's 18-day-old general strike will be extended to include factory furnaces and petrol depots, the Finnish Trades Unions Federation said here today.

The Employers Federation plan to counter this move by using volunteers, and said they would rely on police protection if necessary.

Petrol depots have so far been kept open during the strike in order to supply a limited number of filling stations with fuel for vital services such as ambulances and fire engines.

But the strikers claimed petrol was being released to private motorists.

### CLASHES

There were reports yesterday of clashes between strikers and private motorists at filling stations. One motorist had his car overturned by demonstrators in Helsinki.

The Social Democrats Party, the strongest in Parliament, has appealed to strikers not to use violence. Archbishop Ilmarinen also broadcast an appeal for restraint last night.

The workers called a general strike to press demands for a wage increase of about six per cent per hour. The employers have offered about half this amount.—Reuter.

## COMPENSATION TALKS

Stockholm, Mar. 18. Negotiations for compensation for Swedish property damaged in Japan during the Second World War will start in Stockholm today, the Swedish Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The Japanese delegation will be headed by the Japanese Minister in Stockholm, Mr. Akira Ogiwara.—Reuter.

## DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE Western Powers Not Agreed

London, Mar. 19. Disarmament experts of the five world powers with atomic know-how—the United States, France, Britain, Canada and the Soviet Union—meet here today in a fresh bid to agree overall disarmament plans which would end the danger of a hydrogen war.

The conference meets shortly after a fresh appeal by President Eisenhower to the Soviet Prime Minister, Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, for progress toward controlling the "nuclear threat."

The London meeting of the five-nation Sub-Committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, was decided last December by the General Assembly.

### Revised Plan

The Assembly then charged it to give priority to reaching agreement on President Eisenhower's "open skies" plan for mutual aerial photography and Marshal Bulganin's plan for ground control posts at ports and other strategic centres.

Both these proposals are included in a revised comprehensive Anglo-French disarmament plan likely to be tabled when the Sub-Committee convenes today.

The talks will take note of last week's approach by the West German Government stressing Germany's interest in the disarmament problem.

Diplomatic quarters here state that in personal messages to the French and British Prime Ministers, Mr. Guy Mollet and Sir Anthony Eden, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, the West German Chancellor, asked that no decision likely to affect the prospects of German reunification should be taken without reference to Bonn.

It appeared unlikely that the Western delegations would present a common front at today's talks.

Preliminary talks last week failed to secure American support for the Anglo-French plan which the leader of the United States delegation, Mr. Harold Stassen, considers to involve concessions liable to weaken the defence of the West.

### Conventional Arms

The Anglo-French position, based on new proposals drafted by the leader of the French delegation, Mr. Jules Moch, was signed last week-end. Personal talks between Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. Mollet.

Diplomatic quarters here state that the Anglo-French plan, if tabled as expected, without American backing, provides for disarmament in the fields of nuclear production, conventional weapons and manpower.

It leaves on one side the question of nuclear stock piles where problems of control and inspection are widely agreed to defy present technical knowledge.

Western diplomats are anxious to know the Soviet reaction to the proposal to proceed with disarmament in all fields except that of existing nuclear stockpiles which would be frozen.

The Anglo-French plan also proposes that future atomic and hydrogen bomb explosions should be subject to international scientific control.

### Unlikely

All disarmament proposed by the plan would be subject to effective and tested inspection and control and would proceed by phases.

Diplomatic quarters said this weekend that the United States delegation was unlikely in the first instance to table more than a partial disarmament plan concentrating on control and limitation of conventional armaments.—China Mail Special.

## H. C. Menzies

Paris, Mar. 18. The former Australian Trade Commissioner in Hongkong, Mr. H. C. Menzies, and Mrs. Menzies arrived in Peking by plane this afternoon, for a visit to the Communist Chinese capital, the New China news agency reported tonight.

They were met at the airport by Mr. Ni Wei-ling, Deputy Manager of the China National Import and Export Corporation.

Mr. and Mrs. Menzies were guests at a dinner given this evening by Mr. Tiao Chung-shu, acting manager of the Corporation.—France-Press.

### Tehran, Mar. 18.

Prince Abol Reza, brother of the Shah of Iran, will represent his country at ceremonies marking the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, it was officially announced tonight.

Prince Abol Reza will be accompanied by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Ardakan. They will leave Tehran on March 23.—France-Press.

## Middle East Oil Fields Useless During War

Washington, Mar. 18. Some Western strategists have written off the Middle East as an oil source for either the West or Russia in any major war of the nuclear age.

Vital as are the oil wells of Iran, Iraq and the Arabian peninsula to the peacetime economy of Western Europe, they would be lost as dependable sources in case of World War III, according to this theory.

The idea is that Russia could not exploit these installations either. Whichever side had possession of the oil wells, pipelines and refineries of the vast desert area, the other could quickly destroy them from the air on the ground.

### Almost Impossible

Should a Russian attack overrun Iran, for example, Western forces would have time to blow up and destroy one of the two major oil refineries in the Mideast, the one at Abadan.

In addition to the cost and the transportation difficulties involved in building a new refinery, Western air power would make successful reconstruction almost impossible.

Pipelines that now transport the bulk of crude oil from the fields to Mediterranean port cities and refineries could be cut easily, either by sabotage or air strike. It is considered almost impossible to protect effectively pipelines that run for thousands of miles across desert territory.

Even if the Russians succeeded in getting the oil to the port cities they would come under terrific hammering running the sea lanes through the Bosphorus and the Black Sea.

### Arab Hostility

On the other hand, military experts are agreed, even the best air defence could not stop Soviet atomic air strikes from destroying the highly inflammable oil refineries. They point out it would take only one plane to knock out a refinery.

In view of these considerations, possible Arab hostility to the Western powers, engendered by the Israel controversy, is not expected to have a profound effect on the strategic situation.—United Press.

## India To Commemorate Buddha

Calcutta, Mar. 18.

India's Vice-President, Sarvapalli Radhakrishna announced today that India will spend a total of ten million rupees this year to celebrate the 2,500th anniversary of attainment of Nirvana by Buddha.

Radhakrishna, chairman of a special Buddha activities committee, said none of the funds would be spent on religious functions because India is a secular state.

### SYMPOSIUM

The Vice-President said the funds will be donated by the Central and State Governments and will be used to restore Buddhist holy sites "purely as places of historical and tourist interest."

A symposium of Buddhism will be held in New Delhi with the participation of a hundred prominent foreign Buddhist scholars, Mr. Radhakrishna said. He said the Buddhist celebrations would be opened by President Rajendra Prasad in New Delhi on May 23 and would last till the end of the year.—France-Press.

## Nerves Trouble Palace Swans

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

The 25 Imperial Palace swans, a gift from West Germany two years ago, are said to be on the verge of a nervous breakdown, because of constant motor car honking nearby.

Experts of the Society for the Preservation of Palace Surroundings said the swans are already suffering from depression, and the Society is asking the police to try to silence nearby traffic.—China Mail Special.

## Foreign Aid IKE WILL HAVE FIGHT ON HANDS

Washington, Mar. 19. President Eisenhower will today present Congress with new foreign aid proposals to meet Soviet economic penetration in the Middle East and Asia.

Details of his 4,800 million dollar programme have not been disclosed, but it is certain that it will receive a hostile reception by influential groups in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The President, who worked on the final draft of the message at his Gettysburg farm over the weekend, is preparing to throw the full weight of his personal prestige behind the programme.

He hopes to persuade Congress to agree to the concept of long-term economic aid to Asia and the Middle East, comparable to the old Marshall Plan in Europe.

### BLOCK CHALLENGE

This will give the Administration more flexibility and the assurance of continuity in its fight to block the Soviet Union's challenge in the years ahead.

But the President will face a hard fight from budget-minded Congressmen. This will start on Tuesday, when the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House opens public hearings on the foreign aid proposals.

One objection will be that the United States cannot afford to match each "paper promise" made by the Soviet Union in under-developed areas.—Reuter.

## Soviet Ship Just Beats The Ice

Moscow, Mar. 18.

The Soviet diesel ship Lena, the last vessel to leave the Soviet Antarctic expedition base, sailed just in time on Saturday as reconnaissance aircraft reported that the pack ice was rapidly closing passages through the Davis Sea.

Aircraft from the Soviet Antarctic base found that the autumn storms had brought masses of ice to the only food passage in the north-west of the Davis Sea, reported the Soviet news agency Tass.

The water temperature in the bay at the Mirny base on Queen Mary Land fell considerably and fresh ice formed round the ship. Overnight, the ice grew so thick that seals were frolicking on the ice near the vessel in the morning.

Soviet fliers then discovered a way through the ice near the north end of the Shokan Glacier and the commander of the Soviet expedition decided that the Lena should sail for home.—Reuter.

## 'Gentle' Guard Dogs Up For Sale

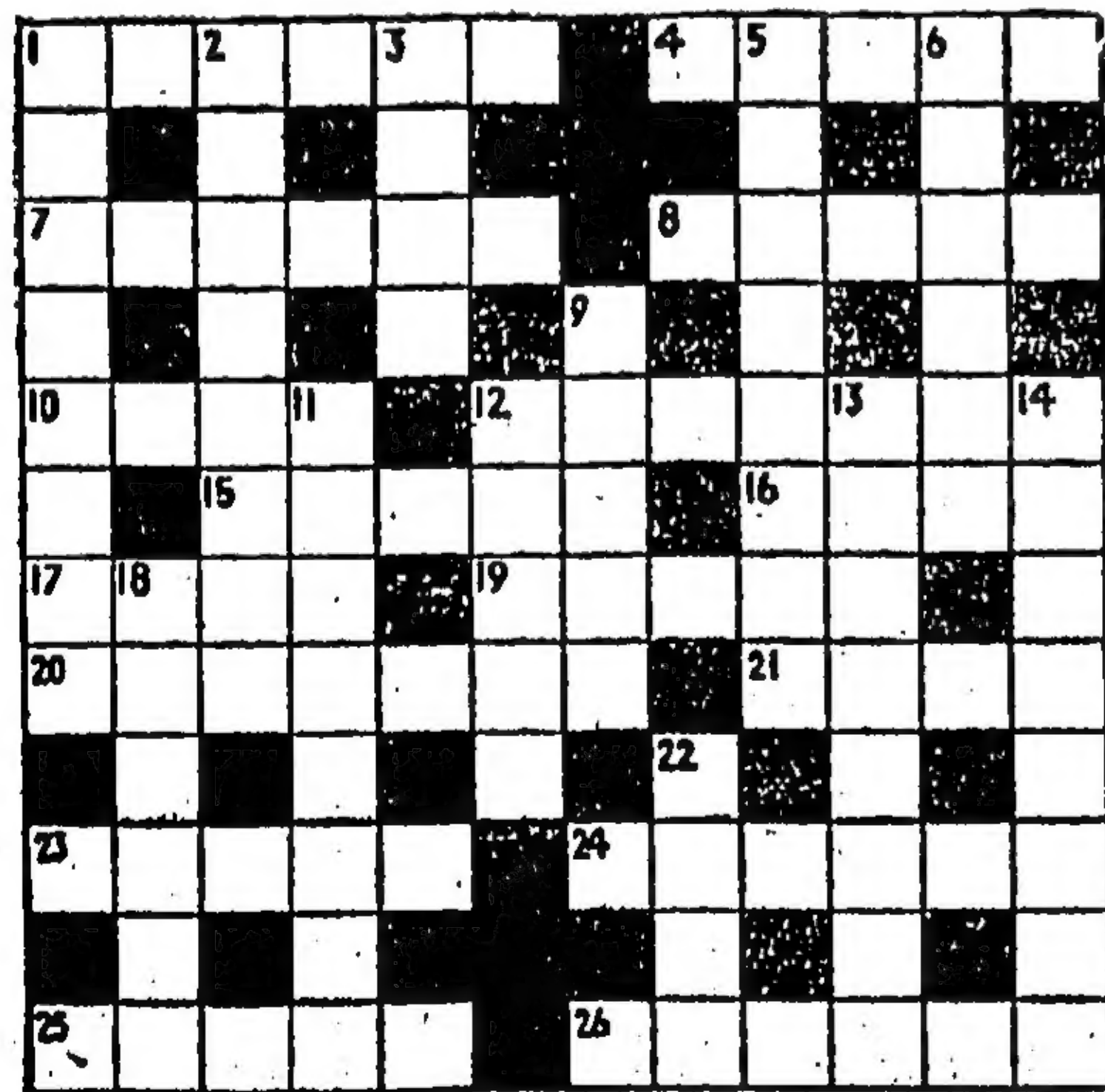
Bonn, Mar. 18.

The Royal Air Force in West Germany is inviting bids for Alsatian dogs that are "not aggressive enough" for guarding air bases but would make ideal house dogs.

Dogs which show during training that they are not up to the standards as guard dogs are sold to the public.

The Air Force feeds them on two and a half pounds of meat and biscuits a day, but, according to one trainer, a family of three can feed an Alsatian well on household scraps, and an occasional tin of dog meat can make a fine meal.—China Mail Special.

## A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- Writer (6).
  - Break out (5).
  - Disinfectant (6).
  - Concur (5).
  - Prejudice (4).
  - Burmises (7).
  - Water vapour (5).
  - Try out (4).
  - Always (4).
  - Longed for (5).
  - Informed (7).
  - Flamboyant (6).
  - Custom (5).
  - Rigorous (6).
  - Swift (5).
  - Contaminates (6).
- DOWN**
- Tripped (6).
  - Scot tree (6).
  - Cook (4).
  - Record (6).
  - Portions (6).
  - Damp (5).
  - Tussle (6).
  - Yawned (5).
  - Sits (4).
  - Speaks imperfectly (8).
  - Craft (6).
  - Fruit (4).

**SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD**—Across: 3 Citadel, 6 Perilous, 9 Restored, 11 Ruminant, 12 Mere, 13 Strip, 18 Sedan, 19 Room, 22 Features, 24 Preserve, 25 Brand, 26 Station, Down: 1 Spare, 2 Crime, 8 Cornels, 4 Idea, 5 Ante, 6 Earned, 7 Sudden, 10 Sland, 14 Refer, 15 Pattern, 16 Grapes, 17 Camera, 20 Broad, 21 Aids, 22 Feet, 23 Avar.



# NON-PARTY LINE MAY WIN POLL FOR EISENHOWER

Washington. THERE is virtually nobody in Washington today who thinks that President Eisenhower can be defeated in his new open fight for a second term. Assuming, of course, that he suffers no new physical setback.

The President's popularity, in spite of his prolonged absences from Washington, has remained as high as ever. It is a fantastic phenomenon, unprecedented in American history. Otherwise the President could not afford to tell the American people that he would have to impose certain restraints on his work, such as "recreation and rest."

"I must keep my weight at a proper level; I must take a short midday breather; I must usually retire at a normal hour, and I must eliminate many of the less important social and ceremonial activities," he explained with intimate frankness during his nation-wide television broadcast.

His refusal to participate in a "burning" election campaign, too, may be to his advantage.

## Unusual Thing

He could not, he said, remain "President of all the people" and indulge in a sharply partisan campaign.

That is a very unusual thing for a President to say. It virtually means that he does not consider himself the representative of one Party, but that he stands above Party like a monarch.

Perhaps one of his greatest assets is his desire to stay out of political controversy—his aim at uniting the country. People seem to be tired of partisanship that tends to divide the country.

The chances of the Democrats winning the next election have slumped heavily, but they must run, and they must devise a strategy that gives them whatever best outside chance they have left.

After all, the President may suffer a setback before election day, and they must be prepared for all eventualities.

In this new situation, it seems to me that Stevenson's "moderation" is likely to be the least effective approach in his campaign. He cannot compete for moderation with Eisenhower, whose moderate views are already firmly implanted in the public mind.

The Democrats will have to wage an aggressive campaign—the kind Governor Harriman has been advocating. Whether or not this will mean that Harriman rather than Stevenson will be the Democratic candidate is difficult to say as yet, but the forces opposing Stevenson—and their most powerful strategist is

There is a strong faction in the White House and in the Republican Party, secretly conspiring against Nixon. They know that he would be an excellent target for the Democrats should he be chosen. On the other hand, Nixon is young and combative and conduct a vigorous and hard-fisted campaign.

By O. H. BRANDON

Former President Truman—are bound to redouble their efforts to outflank the former Governor of Illinois.

The health issue, of course, is bound to become a central campaign argument.

When I saw President Eisenhower at his last press conference he looked as well as I have ever seen him. He appeared self-confident; his voice was strong and clear-cut.

He obviously had no more doubts in his own mind that he had made the right decision, but much will depend on how he conducts himself in office between now and election time.

Will he be able to keep up a full working schedule? Will he have to go on repeated, lengthy vacations? The truth of the matter is that the President has not yet really subjected himself to the full work load over a long period.

But the Republican strategy in handling the President's recovery, with his final declaration of availability, has been so astute and so well-managed that they are unlikely to make a mistake before the elections—unless the President suffers a more serious setback.

Much of the excitement and suspense has now gone out of election campaign. The Re-

publican Convention as regards the President will be a walk-over, and the Democrats have overnight become such outsiders that this may turn out to be a campaign of much noise and bitterness for nothing.

The only great uncertainty, apart from whether Stevenson is now to be the Democratic candidate, is the Republican's choice of vice-President.

Nixon is a controversial figure. While Eisenhower unifies the country, he sharply divides it.

There is a strong faction in the White House and in the Republican Party, secretly conspiring against Nixon. They know that he would be an excellent target for the Democrats should he be chosen. On the other hand, Nixon is young and combative and conduct a vigorous and hard-fisted campaign.

## Split Rule

With the President reduced to television appearances, and perhaps some campaigning by aircraft, the Republican Party will need somebody to do the leg-work in the wake of an aggressive Democrat.

Eisenhower himself is very popular, but many people are bound to take into consideration the man who would replace him as President should he suffer another mishap. Nixon is not the man in whom the majority has confidence.

There is little doubt, however, that the Democrats will retain control of the Senate, and probably also of the House.

The country elected Eisenhower overwhelmingly; at the same time it expressed great distrust of the Republican Party. Eisenhower won in 1952, but his Party lost. He won 55.4 percent of the popular vote, but in the House his Party gained a majority of only seven seats, and in the Senate the division was even.

Many people believe, however, that, as Eisenhower's policies are closer to those of the Democrats than to those of the Republican majority in Congress, the most advantageous way of governing the country may be with Eisenhower in the White House and the Democrats in control of Congress.

## THE CUMMINGS UN-COMIC STRIP . . . . . TO BE CONTINUED



Charles Anderson Investigates

The Plight Of The Arab Refugees

# HOMELESS MILLIONS LIVE IN MISERY

Damascus. I HAVE just toured some of the Middle East's most controversial refugee camps, in the footsteps of Dr. Edith Summerskill, who recently made a special visit to investigate the plight of Arab refugees—refugees who for over seven years have suffered what Dr. Summerskill has described as "indescribable privations."

Back from my own tour, I can only add confirmation of the above description, for while there are many who say that refugees are spoon-fed, and others who demand a greater measure of assistance for them, there is little doubt that anyone who actually visits these camps will soon see the truth of the matter.

## TWO IMPRESSIONS

FOR a week I made my way to camps in various parts of Syria and Lebanon, and now I can divide my impressions into two categories. One is sympathy for the refugees (all of them), and the other, admiration for the work which UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) is doing to alleviate the distress and obvious misery among so many of these unhappy people.

As the strength of any comment lies in its factual

content, I can say that my visit to the UNRWA camp at Nairab, 10 miles from Aleppo, was typical of my visits to other camps.

At Nairab, old British Army barracks—souvenirs of the last war—have been converted to accommodate some 3,000 men, women and children in conditions only just removed from destitution.

## PATHETIC

EACH of the long ex-Army huts has been divided into small rooms to shelter the various families. Where there are seven or eight children, those above five years of age sleep together in one room, while those under five sleep with their parents. One family I saw was composed of 15 people.

The few possessions of the refugees are pathetic in the extreme. Bent and battered saucepans, broken plates and jugs, torn, tattered rugs and curtains speak eloquently of the poverty of their owners.

It was snowing when I visited Nairab, with the temperature at freezing and in spite of all my warm clothes I was shivering. What did they feel—these thousands, with their threadbare clothing and

wooden shoes? Even in their rooms, the only source of warmth was a small charcoal brazier, or primus stove.

Twice a day—noon and five p.m.—one or two members of each family attend at the "cook-house" with the tin plates and mugs to receive their allowance of "Kiskebub", a form of Irish stew. Sometimes this mutton stew is alternated with boiled goat or camel and potatoes, with, very occasionally, mutton curry and rice.

Sanitary arrangements are primitive but satisfactory, but water for washing clothes is limited to one hour a day. If a family has a large tub it may fill this for future use, but the main water supply is turned off at 9 a.m. each day.

## MEDICAL WORK

CONSIDERING the primitive and severe conditions in which these people live, their general health is remarkably good. No major epidemics, such as plague, typhoid or typhus, have occurred at Nairab for the past five years.

I visited the small hospital, in charge of a European doctor with two Palestinian assistants and four nurses. All medical supplies are free,

as are also x-ray examinations and x-ray therapy treatment for ringworm, the most prevalent of children's diseases in Syria.

Pneumonia is the most common complaint, especially among the elderly, and accounts for the majority of deaths at this time of year. Measles follow an annual cycle, but it is usually mild in character.

## NOTHING SAID

ONE of the greatest difficulties facing the authorities is to persuade families to report the death of any of their members.

As ratios are on a "per head" basis, the death of one member means that supplies are reduced proportionally. A few weeks ago, I was told, a family of four was discovered collecting rations for eight—the rations of the aged father, mother-in-law and two small children who had all died. The family had just buried them in the sand outside the hut, and said nothing!

A ruling of UNRWA is that if any member of a family earns more than £15 a month, that family is considered "self-supporting." As, however, it is impossible to feed and clothe seven to nine children, father and mother, to say nothing of two grandparents on this money, a way must be found to circumvent this ruling. The usual method is to "marry off" a working son as early as possible to a girl in the next hut. Once married, the son is considered by the authorities to constitute a family of his own—and all members continue happily to draw UNRWA supplies.

Unfortunately, from an official point of view, marriage usually

produces a brood of children—and many more mouths to feed! The medical officer told me that an average of 50 babies are born every month in the Nairab camp.

UNRWA employs every possible means to boost the morale of the refugees. Children attend camp schools; expectant mothers are given lectures in child care. Many camps have the equivalent of a Women's Institute, where dozens of women gather each afternoon to discuss those matters dear to the heart of women: the world over.

For the non-working men there is football, baseball, volleyball, running and cycling. All this is excellent. BUT it is no solution to the problem. And certainly no answer to the question on every refugee's mind: "When do we return to OUR country?"

In Syria, the Palestinian refugee is just tolerated—no more. It is illegal to employ a refugee if a Syrian can do the job.

## REFUGEES TRAINED

BUT, in spite of manifold difficulties, UNRWA is training the young refugees to become a worthy member of society.

During his recent visit to the Middle East, Mr. Henry R. Labouisse, Director of UNRWA, presented "trade certificates" to 39 refugee trainees, who had completed three-year courses in welding, carpentry and agriculture.

On the Gaza strip, where 250,000 refugees are concentrated, UNRWA is erecting barracks similar to those at Nairab. When I discussed this with Monsieur Courvoisier, UNRWA representative in Lebanon, on my return to Beirut, he said: "Palestine has been effaced from the map of the world. The only country these people know today is a stone barracks. They are the unhappy breed of our time. But the day will come when these homeless millions may demand a country—and then watch for trouble!"

## FOOTNOTE:

UNRWA is an International Organization, responsible to the UN General Assembly. Seventy percent of its budget is from American sources; 30 percent from various European countries.

From a staff of 8,500 (for all countries) only 20 are US subjects.

In 1955, UNRWA spent \$26,000,000 on refugee assistance.

## POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"The problem as I see it is how to convince the Russians that there's no defence against the H-bomb without lifting the H-bomb out of the sky. I don't think of myself as a commoner." I advised Liberator when he went to London, to keep quiet on the subject of why he wanted to marry the Princess. "And he's just to think of it," I said.

# NO GIRL WILL SHARE HIM WITH HIS PUBLIC

Beverly Hills. DESPITE everything I have said about him, Liberace asked me to lunch. We drove in his Cadillac (one of his few possessions not shaped like a grand piano) to a hotel in Los Angeles to see a performing dog do an imitation of him at a midday cabaret. "I have lots of imitations," said Liberace. "All imitation is flat—"

"Which holds the most?" he asked me. "There will be no one in the flesh. We must get them all in."

I suggested that he should take the Harrington Avenue and explained that was where they put on circuses. He thought it might be a good place.

He was wearing his traditional day uniform. Shirt decorated with pinstripes. He spotted with pinstripes, piano-shaped cuff-links

nobody else has done it before. But I am the forerunner of fashions. I started the trend for muffle shirts and tasseled leather shoes. Now everybody wears them."

A fan came over and asked for his autograph and inquired after his mother's health. "You see," said Liberace, turning to me, "I belong to my public. So does my mother. And my brother. They are all a part of my personality. I am a great family man. I only haven't got married yet because I couldn't find a girl who would be willing to share me with my public."

THOMAS WISEMAN reports from Hollywood

tering. "I cannot say that the performing dog was particularly flattering but Liberace ('call me Leo') boomed and clipped and clattered and mastered. "Wasn't he cute?"

He was almost as embarrassing as Liberace himself. But with one advantage. Dogs cannot smile. Liberace can—and does all the time.

Liberace, the piano player with the sex appeal of his fingertips, wanted my advice. He is going to London later this year and he does not know whether to take the Albert Hall or the Festival Hall for his concert.

and a suit that was almost luminous. "People love to see me dress up," he explained. "It gives them a thrill. I do it for my public. They enjoy seeing me wear luxurious clothes."

"I'll do anything for my public," he added. "My great virtue is that I have no vanity. Sometimes people criticize me, but when they meet me nobody can help liking me."

I asked him if he did not think that wearing a beaver-hat coat was going a bit far in providing his public with a vicarious sartorial thrill.

"I can't give myself completely to any girl. The public also has its rights."

I asked why, having given himself to his public in a film called "Sincerely Yours," his public had been so ungrateful as to stray away from it in large numbers.

"They didn't sell me properly," he said. "You remember the line Garbo speaks when she made her first talkie? 'Guys and Dolls'?"

I said, "Warner Bros. may have thought that was a bit far." "No," he said. "People only think that because they don't know it's a phrase from a musical."

remark and continued to beam his smile all around the room with the doggedness of a radio transmitter.

He said: "You know, I got into trouble because of what I said about Princess Margaret. I didn't mean any offence. My object in life is to give happiness to people."

"The fact that I earn \$45,000 a week at Las Vegas is incidental. The public likes me to earn a lot of money. It gives them a thrill. Now about the Princess. All I meant was I'd like to meet her because I think we'd enjoy each other. I know, people thought it strange of me to say this because she is royalty and I'm a commoner. The thing is, I don't think of myself as a commoner."

I advised Liberace when he went to London, to keep quiet on the subject of why he wanted to marry the Princess. "And he's just to think of it," I said.

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